

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-12, and 26-32 are amended and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Claims 13-25 and 33-39 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non elected invention. Support for the amendment to the claims may be found, for example, in FIGS. 1-5 and pages 18-22 of the specification. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-39 will remain pending in the patent application.

Before addressing the Examiner's objection and rejections, Applicants would like to express appreciation for the Examiner's indication that claims 26-32 are allowed.

In the Official Action, the title was objected to. In response, the title has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,181,806 to Kado *et al.* (hereinafter "Kado") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,322 to Salganicoff *et al.* (hereinafter "Salganicoff"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 1 recites a facial recognition apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, a plurality of illumination units each of which radiates light from a different direction toward the entire face of a human recognition object. As conceded by the Examiner on page 4 of the Official Action, Kado fails to teach or suggest "the use of a plurality of illuminations radiating light toward the face of a human." The Examiner then relied on Salganicoff as allegedly teaching this feature. Applicants disagree and submit that Salganicoff fails to remedy the deficiency of Kado.

Salganicoff discloses a method and an apparatus for illuminating and imaging an eye through eyeglasses or contact lenses. (See col. 2, lines 5-8). Salganicoff further discloses two light sources that are configured to illuminate the front surface of the eye. (See col. 2, lines 42-45 and FIG. 1). Salganicoff is, however, silent about a plurality of illumination units each of which radiates light from a different direction toward the entire face of a human recognition object. Therefore, any reasonable combination of Kado and Salganicoff cannot result, in any way, in the invention of claim 1.

Applicants also note that Kado recognizes an object based on the shape of each face part and that Salganicoff recognizes an object based on the iris, whereas the invention recited in claim 1 recognizes an object based on feature values. Applicants further note that none of the references discloses using illumination units each of which radiates light from a different direction toward the entire face of a human recognition object for the purpose of emphasizing the features of the face (in order to form an effective shadow on the face to emphasize the features of the entire face). In other words, the illumination units shown in the cited references cannot form an effective shadow on the face of a human recognition object to emphasize the features of the entire face.

Claims 4-7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Kado, Salganicoff or a combination thereof for at least the same reasons provided above related to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Kado in view of Salganicoff are respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,181,805B1 to Koike *et al.* (hereinafter "Koike") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,322 to Salganicoff. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 recites a facial image recognition apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, a plurality of first illumination units, each of which radiates light from a different direction toward the entire face of a human recognition object. As conceded by the Examiner on page 7 of the Official Action, Koike fails to teach or suggest "the use of a plurality of illuminations radiating light toward the face of a human." The Examiner alleged, however, that Koike teaches correcting the brightness by adjusting the position of a light source in FIG. 14 and in col. 7, lines 28-53. Applicants disagree and submit that the cited portion of Koike does not disclose such a feature. All that is disclosed in this cited portion is an explanation of the matching process disclosed by Koike.

The Examiner then relied on Salganicoff as allegedly teaching this feature. Applicants disagree and submit that Salganicoff fails to remedy the deficiency of Koike as explained in the discussion related to claim 1. Therefore, any reasonable combination of Koike and Salganicoff cannot result, in any way, in the invention of claim 11.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Koike in view of Salganicoff are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 8-10 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 3, 8-10 and 12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable in view of the

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foregoing discussion related to claim 1. Similarly, claim 12 depends from claim 11 and is therefore allowable in view of the foregoing discussion related to claim 11.

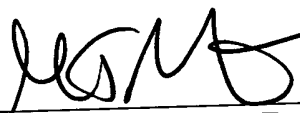
The objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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